1996-97 to augment availability in the country. The State Trading Corporation of India has, upto 14.2.97, finalised contracts for purchase of 16.75 lakh tonnes of wheat. This includes contracts for import of 2.50 lakh tonnes from Canada. Adequate precautions have been taken to ensure that the imported wheat conforms to the parameters prescribed in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and the phytosanitary and quarantine norms laid down by the Government of India. As per the terms of the contracts the wheat to be shipped has to undergo pre-shipment quality inspection by the Government agencies in Canada & Australia and by internationally reputed quality surveyors in the case of Argentina.

Procurement Prices of Food-grains for Current Year

930. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether procurement price of wheat, rice and other foodgrains have been fixed for the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Procurement prices of wheat, paddy and coarsegrains fixed for the current 1996-97 Rabi/Kharif Marketing Season are as under:—

(Rs. per qtl.)

Commodity	Procurement Price
Wheat	380.00
Paddy	
Common	380.00
Fine	395.00
Superfine	415.00
Coarsegrains	
Jowar, Ragi and Bajra	310.00
Maize	320.00
Barley	295.00

Procurement prices of wheat and barley for the forthcoming 1997-98 Rabi Marketing Season have also been fixed at Rs. 415.00 and Rs. 305.00 per quintal respectively.

Government's Policy Putting Sugar Industry in Loss

931. SHRI V. NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policy adopted by Government towards sugar units by giving more concession to new sugar industries is putting the whole sugar industry in loss; and

(b) if so, the reason for Government's proposal to apply uniform sugar policy for new and old sugar industries?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The incentives in the form of additional free sale sugar quota for new sugar factories and expansion projects have been in vogue since the Sampath Committee recommendations in 1975. Incentive schemes are formulated on the basis of recommendations of the Bureau of Industrial Cost and Prices in order to make projects feasible.

Canadian Shipment of Wheat to India

932. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge Canadian shipment of wheat to India has been held up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantum of wheat being imported from Canada along with value thereof;

(d) whether India has signed wheat import deals with any other country, if so, the details in this regad; and

(e) the total wheat to be procured?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The shipments of Canadian wheat have